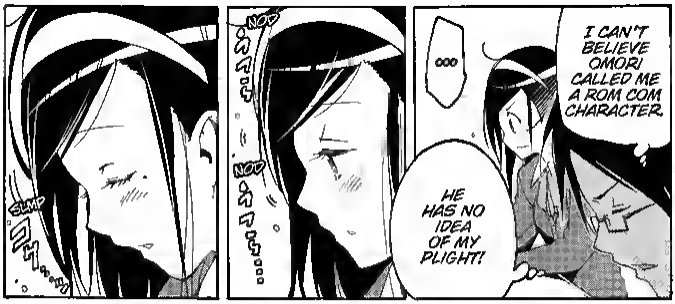
HEY, YUIGA! LET'S HEAD HOME!
OH...
HEY, OMORI AND KOBA-YASHI.
SORRY, I CAN'T TODAY...

DUDE, YOU'RE ALWAYS BUSY THESE DAYS.
IS THERE A GIRL OR SOMETHING?
EXCUSE ME! IS YUIGA HERE?
JOLT
HUH?!
NO WAY..

WHA...?!
?
AND FUMINO FURUHASHI, A.K.A. SLEEPING BEAUTY...
RIZU OGATA, A.K.A. THUMBELLINA...
THE TOP TWO HOTTIES IN OUR SCHOOL!
THEY'RE HERE FOR YOU?! WHAT'S GOING ON, YUIGA?!
NOTHING'S GOING ON!!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!! I CAN'T SAY ANY MORE!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!!
YOU SELFISH JERK-YOU THINK YOU'RE THE STAR OF A ROM COM OR SOMETHING ?!
DUDE, WILL YOU LISTEN?!
SO...

Library
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
SKRIT
DUE TO SOME WEIRD CIRCUM-STANCES, I, NARIYUKI YUIGA...
...BECAME THE TUTOR FOR OUR SCHOOL'S TWO LEGENDARY GENIUSES...
...TASKED WITH GETTING THEM INTO THEIR CHOSEN COLLEGES.

BOTH HAVE CHOSEN THE OPPOSITE FIELD FROM THEIR AREA OF EXPERTISE AS THEIR TARGET...
...AND THEIR GRADES IN THEIR TARGET FIELDS ARE DISASTROUS!
BUT...
I CAN'T EXPLAIN ANY OF THAT TO MY FRIENDS.
Privacy and all.


I CAN'T BELIEVE OMORI CALLED ME A ROM COM CHARACTER.
000
HE HAS NO IDEA OF MY PLIGHT!
NOD
NOD
SLUMP

こてん FLOP
THIS WHOLE THING IS RIDICULOUS!
KRAK
FUWAH
PANIC
EQUATIONS MAKE ME SO SLEEPY...
I'M SO SORRY, YUIGA!
WH.. BUH... FUH ..
Be careful would ja?!
ビクッ
HUH?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, FURU-HASHI?!
CALM DOWN... CALM DOWN, NARIYUKI YUIGA... THIS IS NO BIG DEAL ..
WAH! SHE SMELLS SO GOOD, SHE SMELLS SO GOOD, SHE SMELLS SO GOOD...
BAK DUP
YES?!
YUIGA?

EXCUSE ME
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS TEXT.
HM? WHAT TEXT, OGATÁ?
HERE QUESTION TWO.
BMP
GAHHH!!
SHOOT!!!
IT SAYS TO PICK THE BEST ANSWER CORRESPONDING TO THE MEANING OF THE PASSAGE!!
OKAY, I WAS THROUGH THERE! BLAZER AND CALF!
?
BUT I FELT THAT, I FELT THAT, I FELT THAT

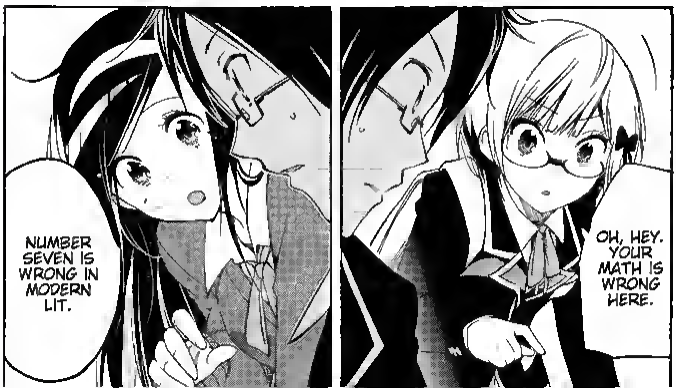
YOU LOOK... SLIGHTLY DISGUSTING, ACTUALLY.
ARE YOU OKAY?
YES. HOW CAN I PUT THIS?
YOU LOOK PALE. ARE YOU OKAY?
UM, YUIGA?
UH... I DO?
AND TOTAL CLUELESS-NESS!
WHAT'S WRONG, YUIGA?
HUH?
OUCH!
ONCE AGAIN, THAT SPECIAL BLEND OF SWEET AND HARSH!!
...PSYCHOLOGICALLY STRESSFUL THAN I REALIZED?
...THAT THIS ASSIGNMENT IS GONNA BE EVEN MORE...!
OH NO!
OUCH!
SH-SH-SHOOP
OGATA'S REPULSED TOO!
...AM I GETTING THE FEELING...
WHY...

HELPING AT THE RESTAURANT TONIGHT, RICCHAN?
!
EXCUSE ME. IT'S SIX. I'VE GOT TO GO.
Take care!

TAK

COME TO THINK OF IT, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THEIR LIVES.
SHE HAS A PART-TIME JOB?

I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED MY OWN HOMEWORK!
!
Math and language arts!
!
WAIT... SIX?! OH NO!!


NUMBER SEVEN IS WRONG IN MODERN LIT.
OH, HEY. YOUR MATH IS WRONG HERE.

NO, CAUSE I'M NOT A GENIUS LIKE YOU!? GAH!!
DON'T YOU JUST INSTINCTIVELY UNDERSTAND FROM THE QUESTIONS?
BEATS ME...
CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE REASONING?
OH! WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
WAAAH!!
I'M SO SORRY! ONCE AGAIN, I'M LOWER THAN POND SCUM!
Totally sucks
MAN...IF ONLY THEY COULD TRANSFER 1 PERCENT OF THEIR TALENTS FROM THEIR PET SUBJECTS...
...TO THEIR TARGET SUBJECTS...
That's life, Priscess
WELL, LISTEN IT'S WAY BETTER THIS WAY.
AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT!
Yep

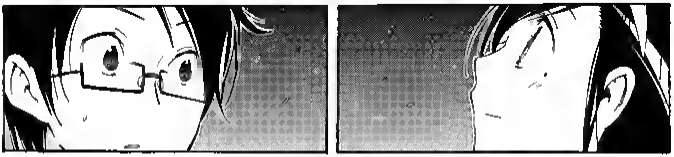
WHOA! THAT WAS A QUICK RECOVERY!! PLUS SHE'S WAY TOO CLOSE!!
BA-DUMP
THAT'S TRUE!!
YUIGA, YOU'RE SO WISE!!

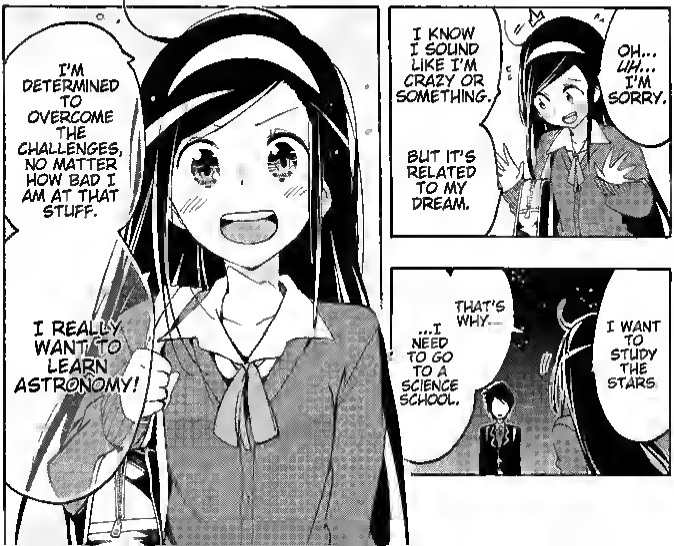
Yeah, cool
OKAY... I'M REALLY GONNA DO THIS!!

!

?
WHAT'S UP, FURUHASHI?
HUH?
OH, SORRY. NOTHING'S UP!
OH... OKAY...
...
ARE YOU INTO STARS?
STAR
HUH?
TEE-HEE...
ACTUALLY...
YEAH.
I LOVE THE STARS.
I'VE LOVED THEM SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

I LOOK FOR MY MOTHER'S STAR.
MY MOTHER DIED, SEE...
ON NIGHTS WHEN THE SKY IS REALLY CLEAR...

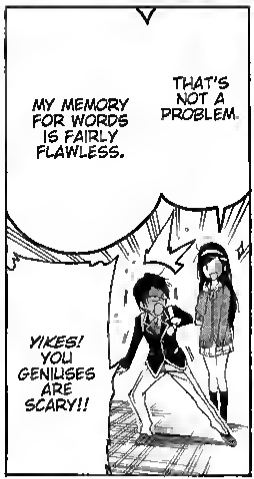


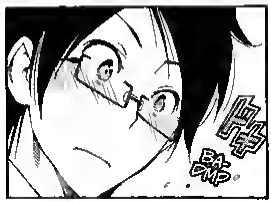

I'M DETERMINED TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES, NO MATTER HOW BAD I AM AT THAT STUFF.
I REALLY WANT TO LEARN ASTRONOMY!
I KNOW I SOUND LIKE I'M CRAZY OR SOMETHING.
BUT IT'S RELATED TO MY DREAM.
OH... UH... I'M SORRY.
THAT'S WHY...
...I NEED TO GO TO A SCIENCE SCHOOL.
I WANT TO STUDY THE STARS.

OH, GREAT
GUH ...
THIS IS UNFAIR!
NOW I CAN'T HELP SNIFFLING!
NOW THAT I'VE HEARD THAT...
...I CAN HARDLY PUSH YOU TO GIVE UP SCIENCE, CAN I?
TEE-HEE!

I'M GOING...
...TO HOLD YOU TO THAT PROMISE...
SENSEI!

Yeesh!


THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
MY MEMORY FOR WORDS IS FAIRLY FLAWLESS.
YIKES! YOU GENIUSES ARE SCARY!!


BAB DUMP

WELL, ANY-WAY...
OH...
I...

NOT THIS AGAIN!
YOU DIDN'T WRITE IT DOWN, AT LEAST.
Ever hear of personal space?

I HOPE YOU FIND IT.
YOUR MOTHER'S STAR, THAT IS.
...!
YUIGA
YU
I— I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT! FORGET IT, WOULDJA?
WHAT AM I, A LITTLE KID? TALK ABOUT CHILDISH!
PANIC
PANIC PANIC
...
I DON'T THINK SO.
ACTUALLY, RECENTLY...
I'VE HAD SIMILAR THOUGHTS.
OH...
THANK YOU...
BUT...I MEAN, I DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT STUFF.
OKAY, OKAY.

橋本公園
I WONDER IF OGATA DOES TOO.
WHAT'RE THE CHANCES?
HONEST-LY...
...THAT WAS A SURPRISE.
I DIDN'T REALIZE FURUHASHI HAD SUCH A CLEAR GOAL.
O-OGATA?!
FLINCH
...
YUIGA...

DELIVERIES ?
Come to think of it she mentioned helping at a restaurant...!!
JUST TAKING A BREAK ON MY WAY BACK FROM DELIVERIES.
It's kinda dangerous
OGATA...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE PARK AT THIS HOUR?
Ogata Udon
...
TAKING A BREAK? WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
Whoa, she's Success!
OH! OGATA'S FAMILY HAS AN UDON NOODLE SHOP?
GEEZ... HER HOBBIES ARE SO SOLITARY!
I'M PLAYING SOLO.
NIMUTO.
IT'S A BOARD GAME FOR TWO TO TEN PEOPLE.

BUT...
...NOBODY ELSE IS EVER INTO THEM
THE THING IS...
I REALLY ENJOY ANALOG GAMES.

!
TEACH ME THE RULES.
KREAK
OKAY, WELL...
IT WORKS WITH TWO PLAYERS, RIGHT?

SHUDDER
TALK ABOUT CONFI-DENCE!
THIS IS GONNA BE A BLOOD-BATH!

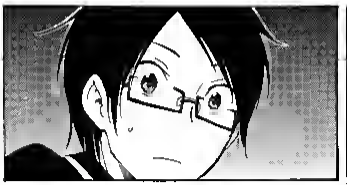
DO YOU INTEND TO DEFEAT ME?
YUIGA...
STARE

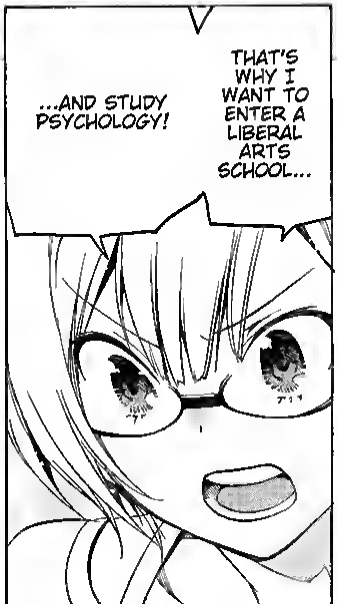
I WON ALL 20 GAMES...
OGATA...
YOU'RE...
スタッ
STILL
MINUS ONE POINT...
THIRTY-TWO...
...REALLY BAD AT GAMES, HUH?
BA DUM
スゥゥゥアー

YOU REALLY MEANT IT, HUH?
...IF I INTENDED TO DEFEAT YOU...
SO, WHEN YOU ASKED...
YES TERRIBLE.
...

WHEN HUMAN EMOTION IS INVOLVED, I'M TOTALLY LOST.
I CAN'T CALCULATE THE ANSWERS WITH PURE MATH AND LOGIC.
APPARENTLY...
...
WHEN I PLAY AGAINST A HUMAN BEING, I NEVER WIN.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I COULD UNDERSTAND HUMAN FEELINGS...
JUST MAYBE...
...I COULD LEARN TO WIN AT GAMES.

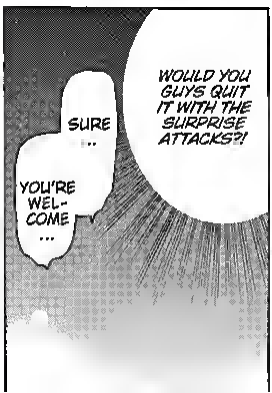



THAT'S WHY I WANT TO ENTER A LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL...
...AND STUDY PSYCHOLOGY!

YES.
IS THAT SO WRONG?
THAT'S WHY?
NO...IT'S NOT WRONG...

INTERESTING
SHE SEEMS ALMOST LIKE A ROBOT SOMETIMES...
BUT HER MOTIVES ARE ACTUALLY PRETTY ORDINARY.
I'M SURPRISED BUT KINDA GLAD.
IT'S SORT OF REASSURING.
IN ANY CASE...
I'M HAPPY TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYTIME.
BUT YOU SHOULD QUIT HANGING OUT ALONE IN THE PARK AT NIGHT.
I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER, SO I WORRY ABOUT THAT STUFF.
ANY-TIME?
WELL, THAT'S MORE A MANNER OF SPEAK-ING...
...
WHAT, ARE YOU GONNA HOLD ME TO MY WORD LIKE FURUHASHI?
NO.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST NOW AND THEN, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
THANKS, YUIGA.


WOULD YOU GUYS QUIT IT WITH THE SURPRISE ATTACKS?!
SURE...
YOU'RE WELCOME...

SHE'S GOT A SWEET SIDE!
BA-DUMP

THE NEXT DAY...
BOOONG
DIIING
DIIING
IS YUIGA HERE?
OH... HERE I AM!
SHOOP
NOT AGAIN, YUIGA!
YOU SWEAR THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON WITH YOU GUYS?!
I SWEAR IT! KNOCK IT OFF, OMOR!
YOU SWEAR A SOLEMN OATH?!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SOLEMN OATHS?! SHEESH!!

UM, YUIGA?
!
ABOUT YESTERDAY...
I FEEL REALLY EMBARRASSED...
WHISPER
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE...
...AT SCHOOL, OKAY?
WHISPER
WHISPER

TO BE CONTINUED...

JUMP START!

A TASTE OF WHAT'S NEW IN JAPAN

Question 2: A Genius's Yearning = X

We Never Learn

By Taishi Tsutsui